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Q107-WMQT  
RADIO  
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ORIGINAL

July 28, 1999

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to you to ask you to **oppose** low power FM. It's bad for radio broadcasters and the public.

These low power stations will cause lots of interference to existing stations. Interference protection standards are in place to maintain the integrity of the spectrum.

The FCC is on record fostering the develop of digital radio and TV. Low power FM will harm the development of in-band, on-channel digital radio with excessive interference.

The FCC is really interested in low power FM to serve urban markets. Because there are already so many stations in say New York, Chicago or L.A., there might be space for one low power FM. But, in the U.P., there could be literally hundreds of low power FM stations causing all kinds of interference to local broadcasters.

The FCC, in the 1980's, had a revision of their rules that allowed thousands of new stations which resulted in too many stations in the market place. After that, the commission had to loosen ownership rules to allow consolidation. In my own case, WMQT was broadcasting on 107.5. The FCC granted a license on the same frequency to a station in Traverse City which caused interference to me just outside Marquette. In order for our station to be heard without interference, I had to go through the FCC to change my frequency to 107.7.

Low power FM would be an administrative nightmare for the FCC and the current broadcasters they would affect with their interference.

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A 10 watt or 100 watt station won't get out very far so would the next step be to increase the power and cause even more interference?

As issues of public importance arise, radio is there to get the word out. We get the message out to a wide rural audience because of our strong, relatively interference free signal. A few weeks ago we were called upon to get people out to the "Stand up for steel rally." Over 2,000 people were there on a sunny Sunday afternoon. With low power FM, you could literally add hundreds of stations to get the word out to.

Local radio stations do a good job serving their community and outlying areas. I'm asking you to reject low power FM radio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "JOE BLAKE". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joe Blake

Owner/WMQT/WZAM  
WMPL am/fm